

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-05 MC-02 DODE-00 EB-07 PRS-01

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P R 111435Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4522

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 6922

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI MASS KE US SO ET

SUBJECT: SOMALI AMBASSADOR QUERIES EMBASSY ON U.S.

ARMS SUPPLY TO KENYA

1. SOMALI AMBASSADOR DUALEH, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED TO NAIROBI FROM MOGADISCIO, REQUESTED ON "URGENT" BASIS APPOINTMENT TO SEE ME THIS MORNING, PRESUMABLY ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM MOGADISCIO. AFTER CHIT CHAT ON OAU SUMMIT AND OTHER RECENT AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS, DUALEH CAME TO POINT AND ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY BASIS FOR "REPORTS" (WHICH HE DID NOT IDENTIFY) THAT U.S. PLANNING TO PROVIDE ARMS TO KENYA. I REPLIED THAT THERE HAVE TO DATE BEEN NO REPEAT NO TRANSACTIONS CONSUMMATED TO SELL U.S. ARMS TO KENYA, ALTHOUGH REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN FIRMS HAVE VISITED NAIROBI IN RECENT MONTHS TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF SELLING VARIOUS KINDS OF ARMAMENT TO KENYAN GOVERNMENT.

2. OBSERVING THAT GOK PRESUMABLY CONSIDERING ACQUIRING
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ARMS FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES, I SAID THAT NO FORMAL

SPECIFIC ARMS REQUEST HAS AS YET BEEN MADE BY GOK TO USG. HOWEVER, I ADDED THAT USG WOULD PROBABLY FAVORABLY CONSIDER "REASONABLE" ARMS REQUESTS BY GOK IN VIEW OF MARKED INFERIORITY OF LATTER'S ARMED FORCES VIS-A-VIS ITS NEIGHBORS, PARTICULARLY SOMALIA AND UGANDA. I EMPHASIZED THAT USG WOULD NOT WISH TO ENCOURAGE GOK ARMS ACQUISITIONS WHICH WOULD SET OFF FURTHER ESCALATION IN ARMS RACE IN THIS PART OF AFRICA, BUT THAT MODERATE ACQUISITIONS OF WEAPONRY BY KENYA SHOULD SERVE ONLY TO REDRESS IMBALANCE AND REASSURE INCREASINGLY NERVOUS KENYANS THAT THEIR COUNTRY IS SECURE.

3. DUALEH ASSERTED THAT SOMALIA'S ARMED FORCES MAINTAINED AT PRESENT ADMITTEDLY HIGH LEVELS PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THREAT OF ETHIOPIAN ATTACK AND THAT SOMALIA HAS NO INTENTION OF USING ITS ARMED FORCES TO INVADE EITHER ETHIOPIA OR KENYA. WHEN I NOTED THAT MAPS BEING RELEASED IN SOMALIA SHOWING ONE-HALF OF KENYA'S TERRITORY AS BELONGING TO SOMALIA CAUSE KENYANS TO THINK OTHERWISE, HE DUCKED AND ASSERTED THAT THREE COUNTRIES SHOULD BE DISCUSSING WITH EACH OTHER VARIOUS MEANS OF RESOLVING "DISPUTED" ISSUES. I TOLD HIM THAT I DOUBTED KENYANS WOULD UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDER DISCUSSING BORDER ADJUSTMENTS OR TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS, ALTHOUGH GOK MIGHT CONCEIVABLY CONSIDER TAKING FURTHER STEPS TO IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS OF ETHNIC SOMALIS INHABITING KENYAN TERRITORY. WHILE CONCEDED COMPLEXITY OF PROBLEMS IN HORN, I SUGGESTED THAT CAUSES OF TENSIONS AMONG THREE COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THEIR RESPECTIVE LEVELS OF ARMAMENT WERE QUESTIONS GOVERNMENTS OF THESE COUNTRIES MIGHT FIND IT USEFUL TO TAKE UP WITH EACH OTHER.

4. COMMENT: I MADE IT CLEAR TO DUALEH THAT USG ROLE, IF ANY, IN SUPPLYING WEAPONS TO KENYA WOULD BE MODEST AND WOULD IN NO WAY THREATEN SOMALIA. I DID NOT TELL HIM THAT USG HAD RECENTLY CONCLUDED \$5 MILLION FMS CREDIT AGREEMENT WITH KENYA, ALTHOUGH THIS PRESUMABLY MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD IN WASHINGTON.
LINDSTROM

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